

MARVEL

152

RATED 7+

COSTA
SANDOVAL
ALMARA

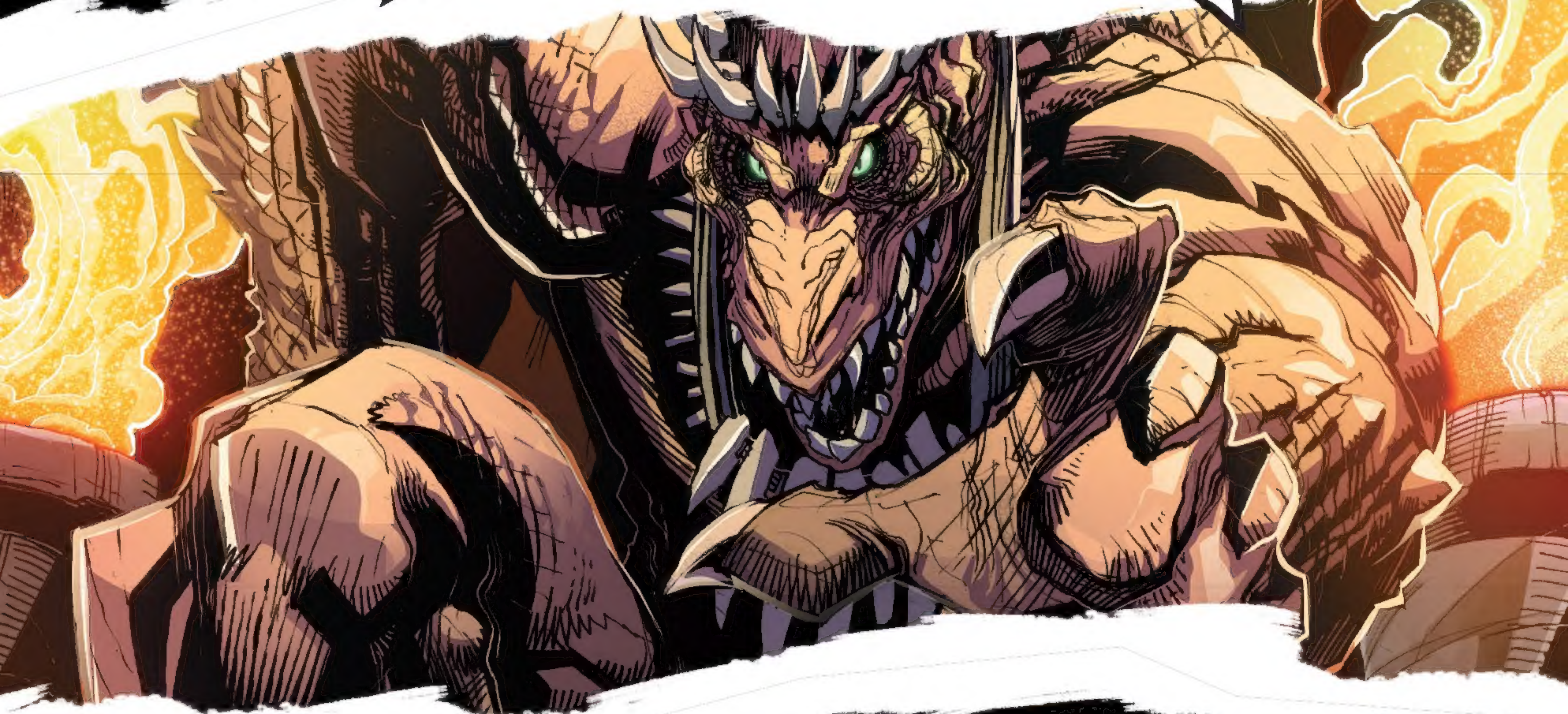
VENOM[®]

*THE LAND BEFORE CRIME
CONTINUES!*



YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



EDDIE BROCK AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAVE BEEN REUNITED, BUT BOTH OF THEM HAVE CHANGED SINCE THEY LAST WERE TOGETHER. VENOM STILL WANTS TO BE A HERO, BUT HAS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN ITS MORE VIOLENT IMPULSES. IT HAS EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO ATTACK PEOPLE IT PERCEIVES AS A THREAT WHILE EDDIE HAS BEEN SLEEPING.

WHEN EDDIE OVERHEARD ABOUT A SYMBIOTE-LIKE MONSTER ATTACK, HIS INVESTIGATION LED HIM TO THE SEWERS, WHERE HE FOUGHT A DINOSAUR BRANDED WITH THE LOGO FOR ALCHEMAX. USING THIS DISCOVERY AS LEVERAGE, EDDIE APPEALED TO LIZ ALLAN, ALCHEMAX'S C.E.O., AND OFFERED TO BRING STEGRON AND HIS EXPERIMENTS BACK TO THE COMPANY IN EXCHANGE FOR A CURE FOR HIS AILING SYMBIOTE.

THE LAND BEFORE CRIME PART TWO

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
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| | | | ALAN FINE EXEC. PRODUCER |

YEARS AGO...



GRAAAAH!

KING OF THE DINOSAURS!

HEY, EDDIE SPAGHETTI.
WHATCHA DOIN'?

GIVE THAT
BACK!



PFFF.
T-REXES ARE LAME,
SPAGHETTI.

SPINOSAURUS
WAS WAY BIGGER AND
STRONGER!

HEY, STOP
IT! YOU'RE
BREAKING
THEM!

EDDIE!



NEVER
GET INTO A
DINOSAUR
FIGHT, SPAGHETTI.
YOU'RE JUST A
WIMP!

EDDIE, HAVE
TO WAKE UP!



TOLD ME
NEVER TO FIGHT
WHILE YOU WERE
ASLEEP.



MMPHH.

WHASSSS
HAPNING?

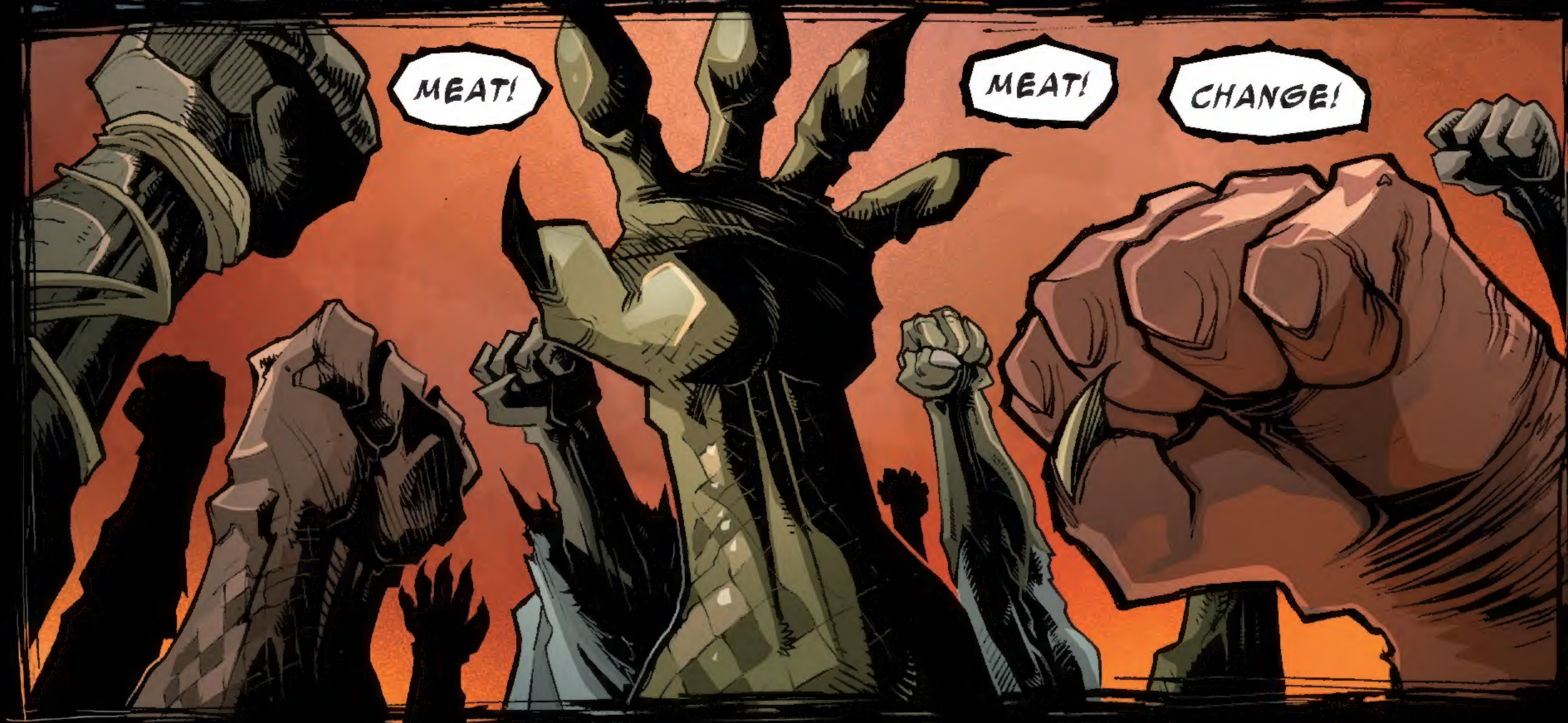
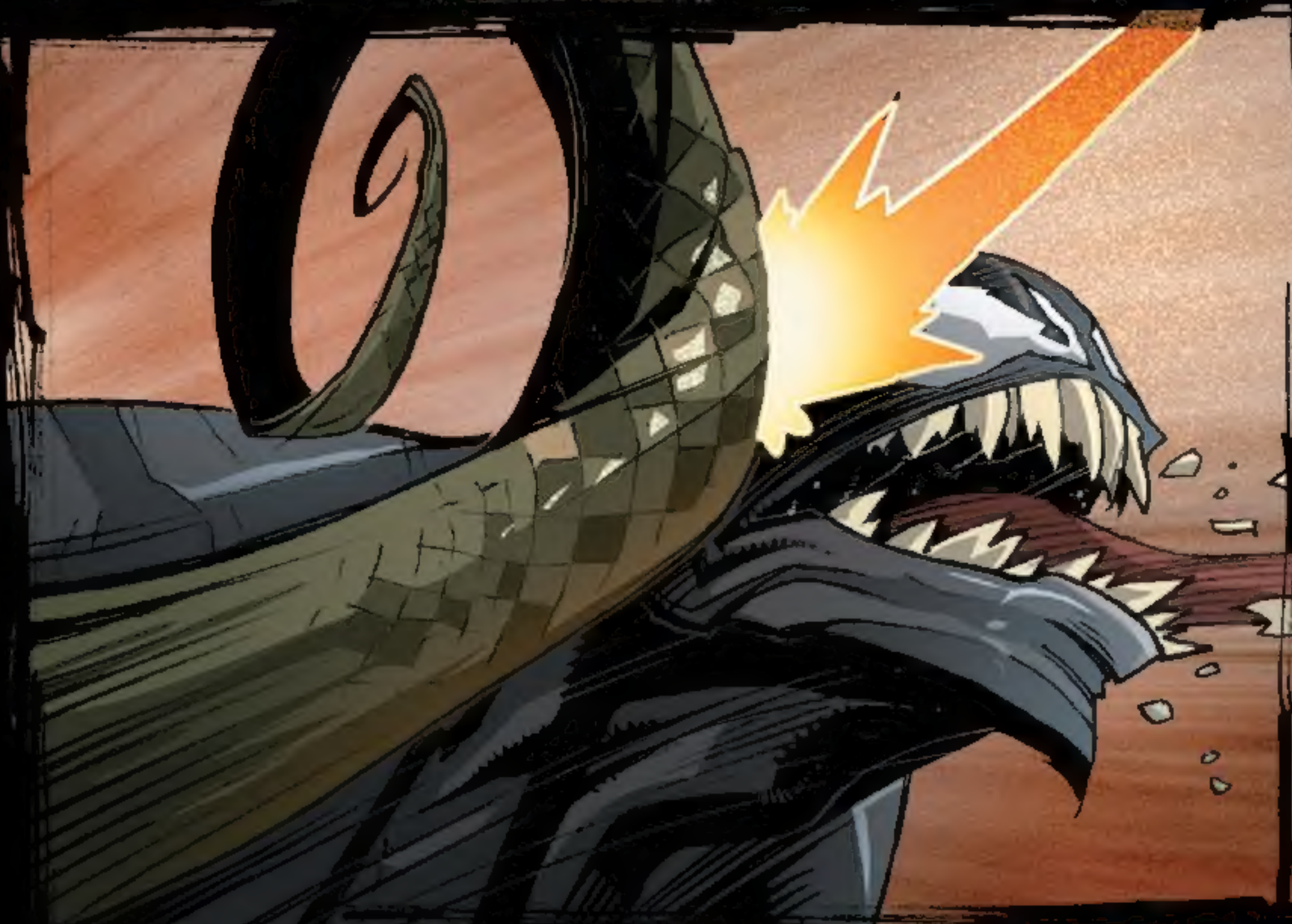
BIG FIGHT,
EDDIE!



NOW.

BIG FIGHT WITH
DINOSAURS!







AH, MY
FOOLISH, INDECISIVE
CHILDREN. WHAT WOULD
YOU DO WITHOUT
STEGRON AS YOUR
GOD?

BRING
HIM TO MY
FEET.



YOU'RE
NOT JUST A
MAN...YOU HAVE
SOME CREATURE
ATTACHED TO
YOU.

IT
REEKS OF THE
PRIMORDIAL.

YOU
MUST BE
STEGRON.



LOOK
AT WHAT YOU'VE
DONE TO THESE PEOPLE--
YOU'VE TURNED THEM INTO
MONSTERS!



THESE
AREN'T MONSTERS,
MAMMAL.

THEY ARE
MY FOLLOWERS.
MY CHILDREN.



THESE WERE MISERABLE WRETCHES-- MEN, WOMEN, DOGS, RATS-- IGNORED BY YOUR SOCIETY, HOMELESS AND SCORNE.



BUT I HAVE CHANGED THEM, SAVED THEM, AND IN DINOSAUR SOCIETY, ALL ARE EQUAL!



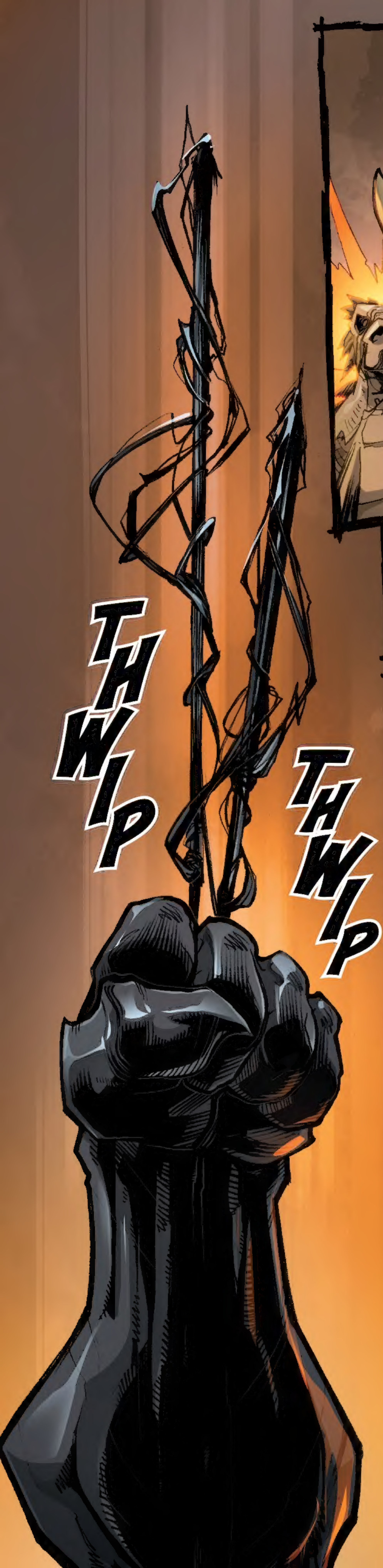
EXCEPT YOU, WHO GETS TO BE THEIR GOD.

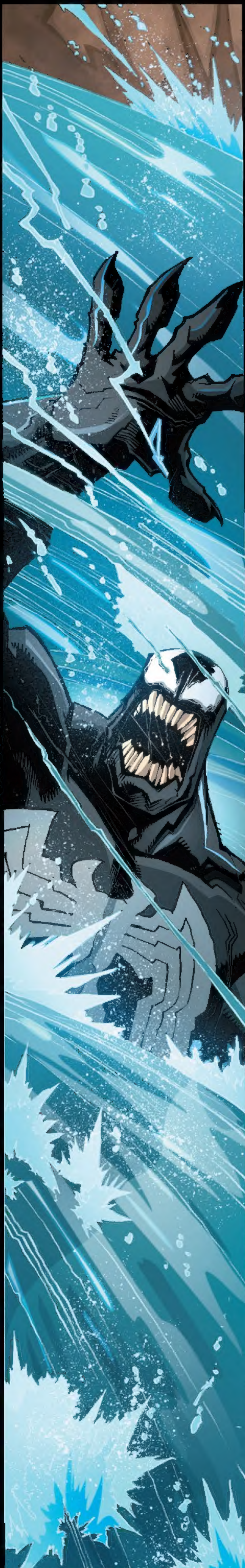


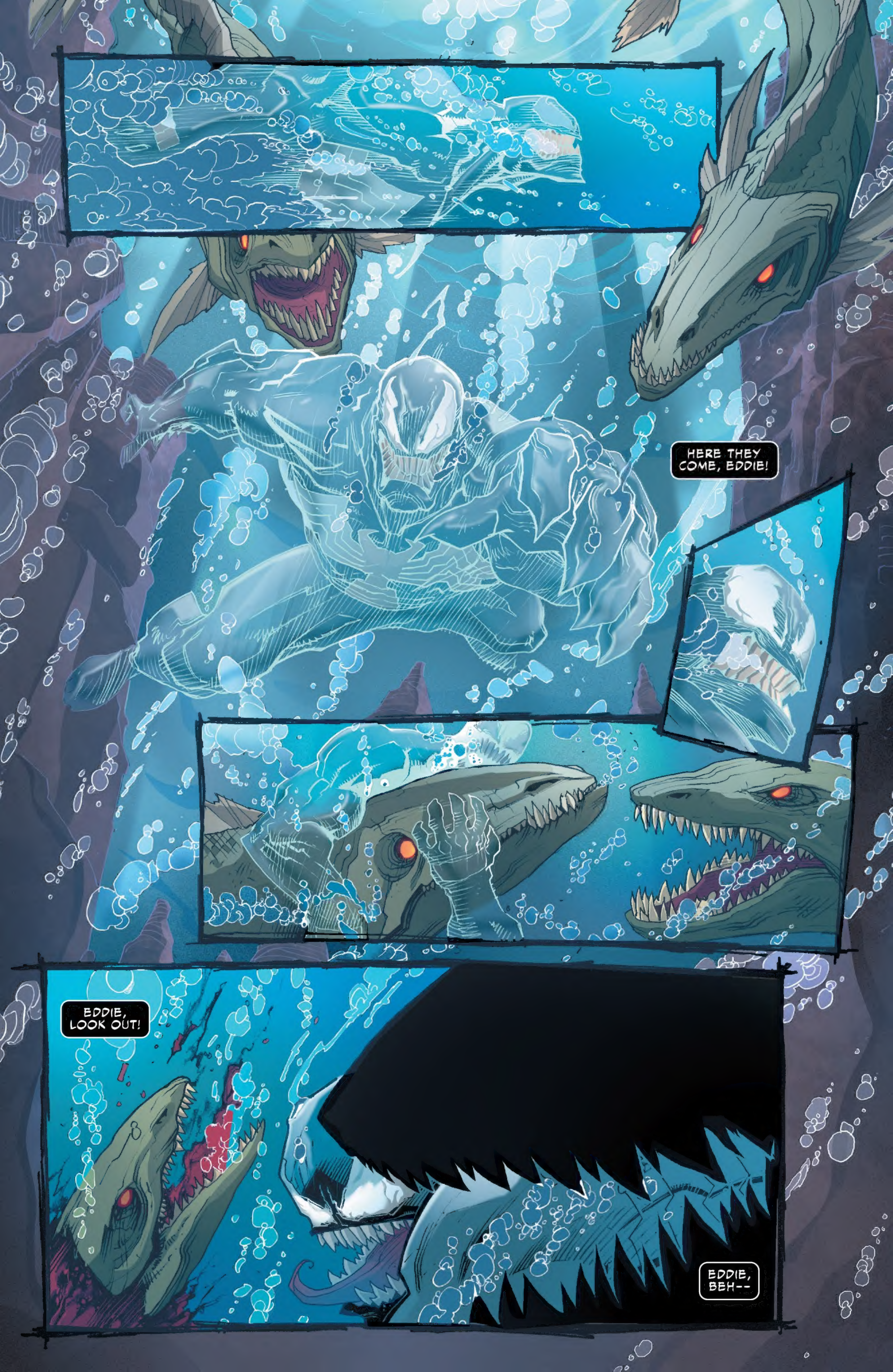
YOUR GOD TOO, WHEN THE CHANGE IS UPON YOU.

I'M INTERESTED TO SEE WHAT IT WILL DO TO YOUR PASSENGER.

WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH.



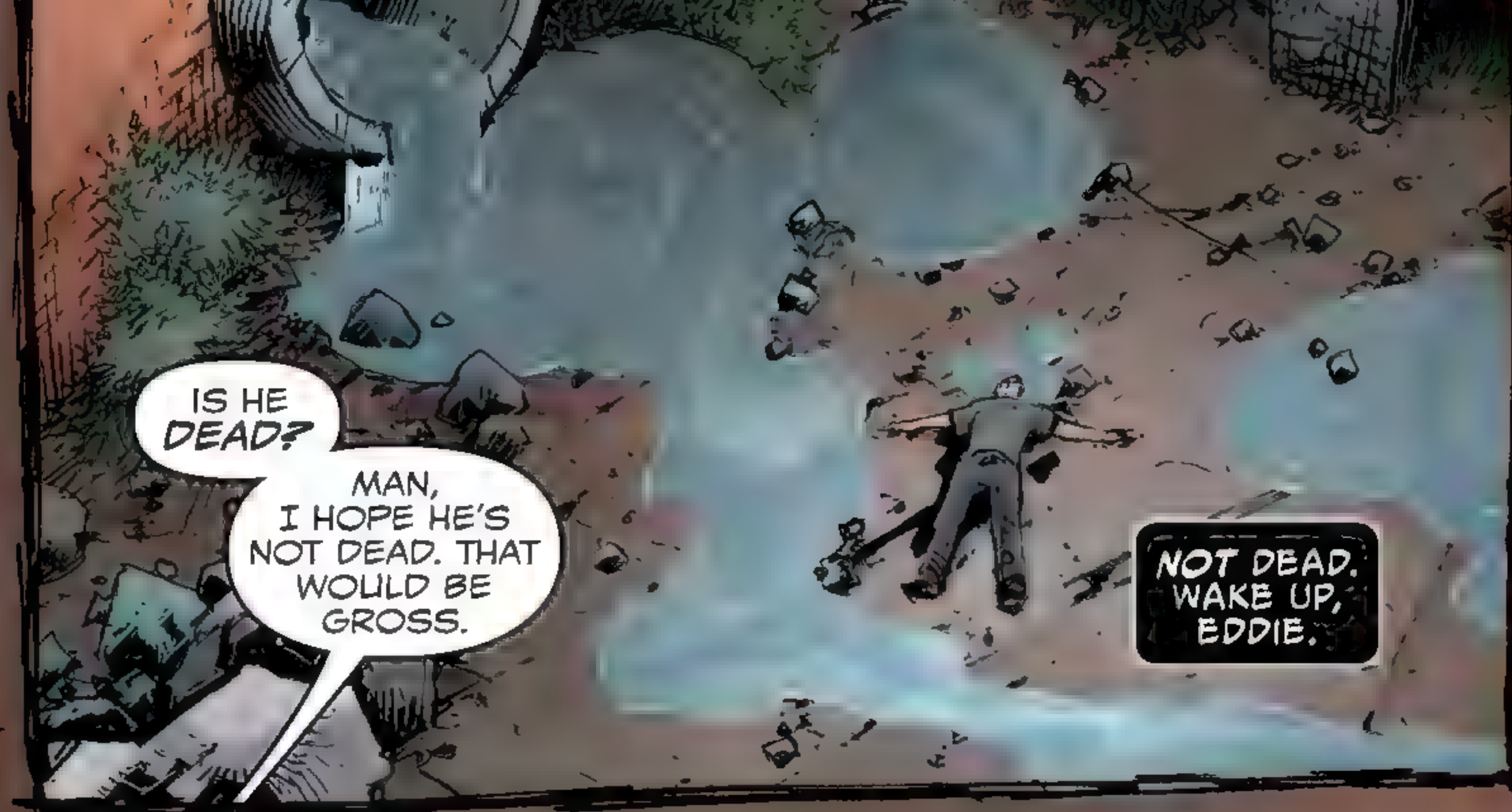




HERE THEY
COME, EDDIE!

EDDIE,
LOOK OUT!

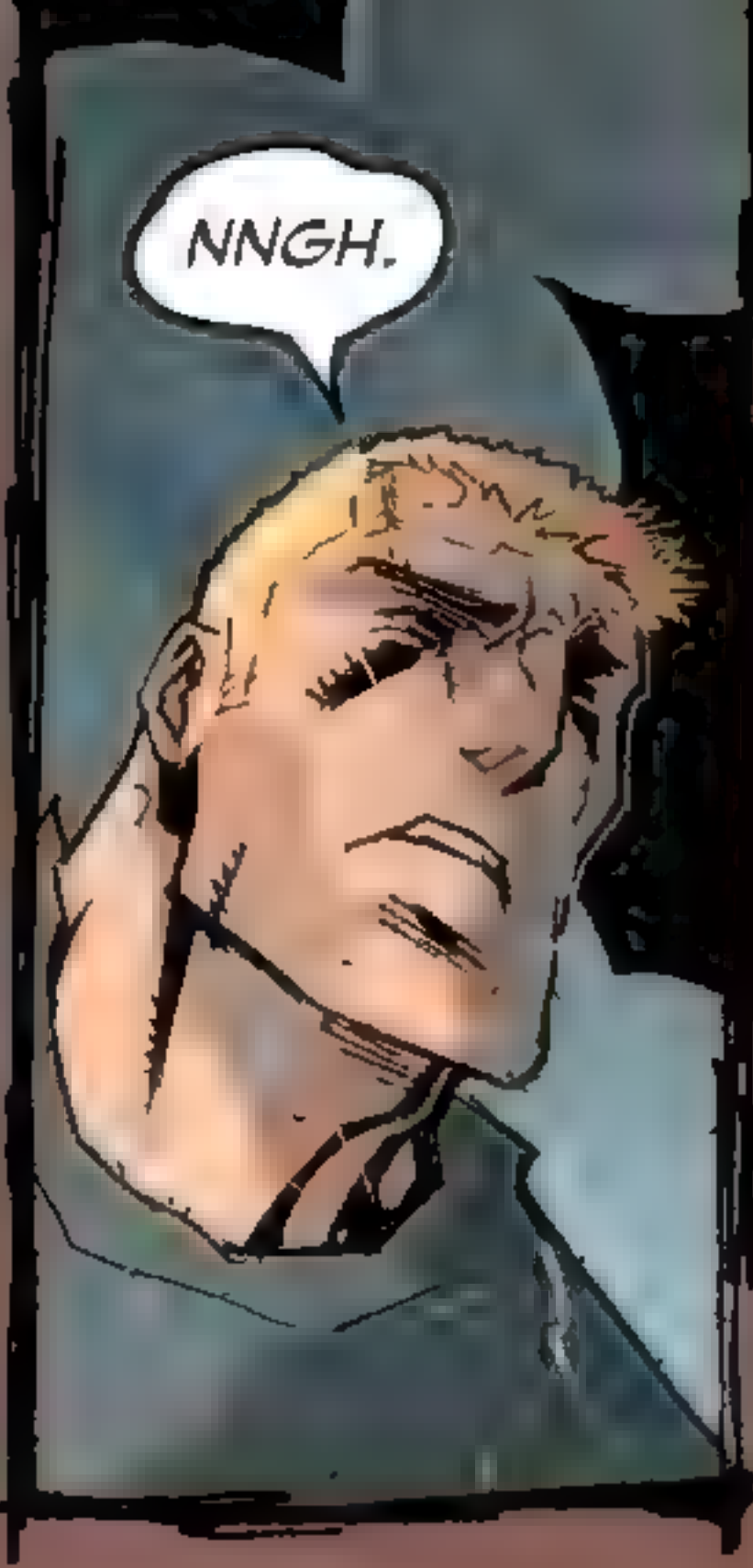
EDDIE,
BEH--



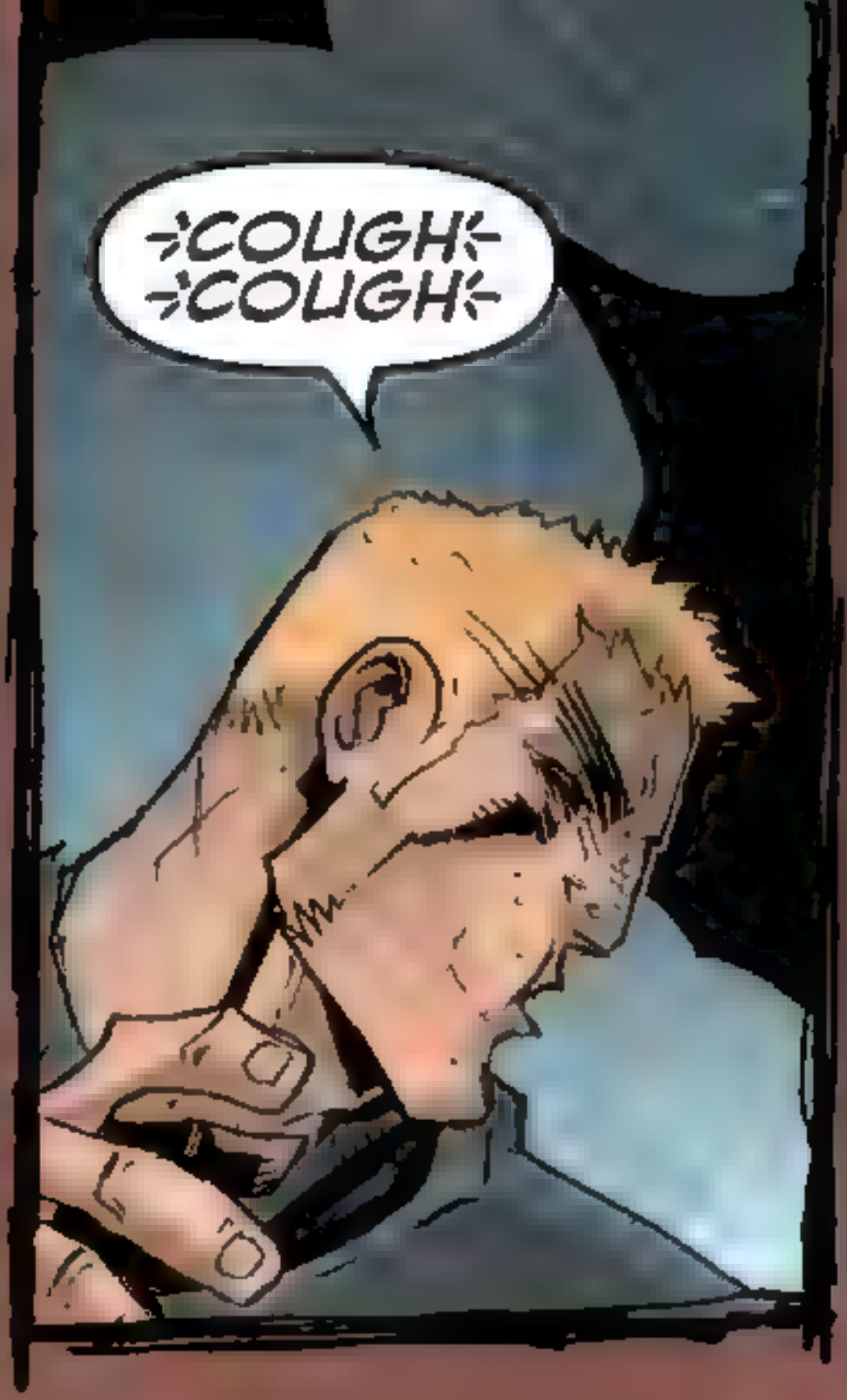
IS HE DEAD?

MAN, I HOPE HE'S NOT DEAD. THAT WOULD BE GROSS.

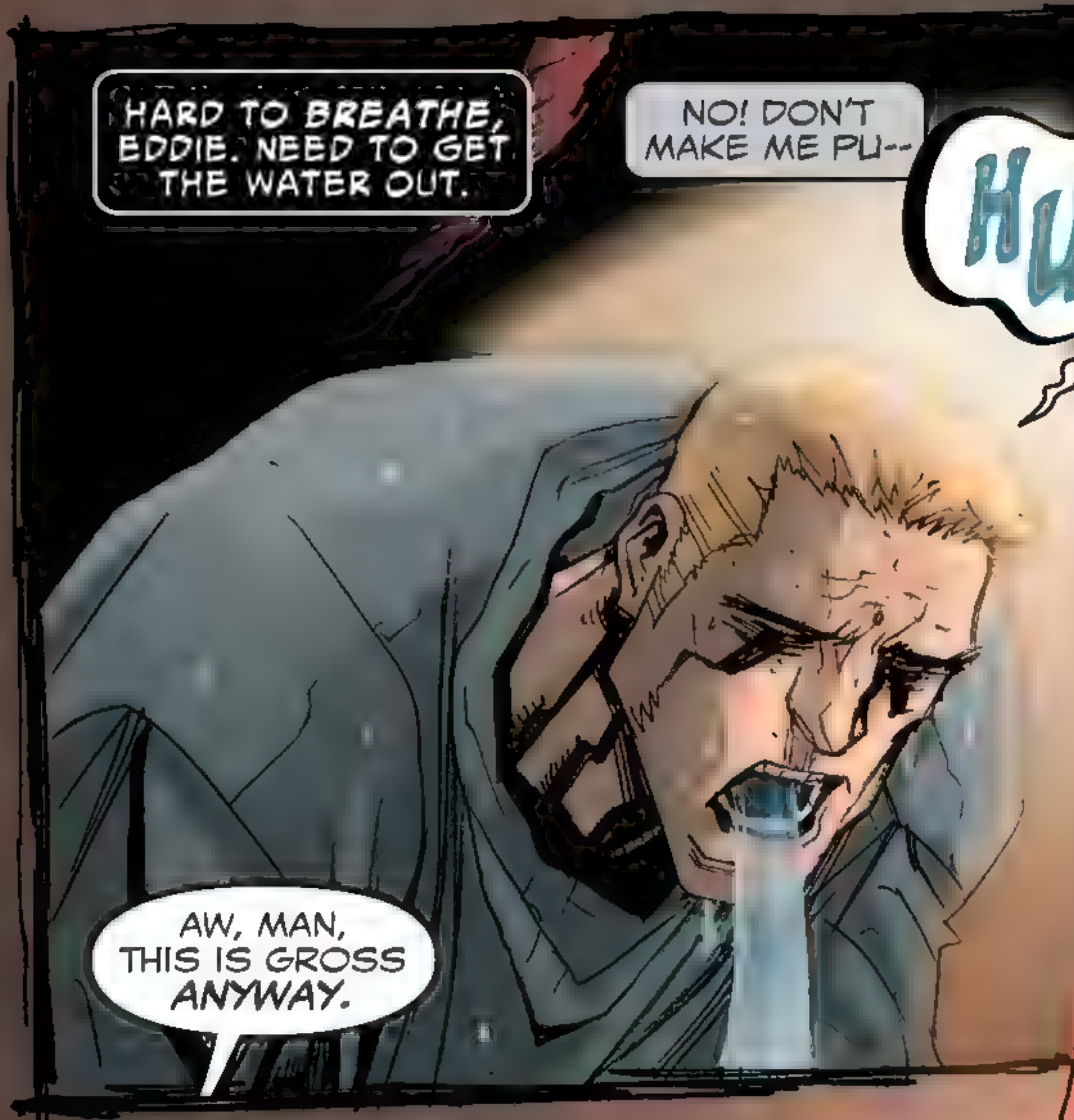
NOT DEAD. WAKE UP, EDDIE.



NNGH.



-COUGH-
-COUGH-



HARD TO BREATHE, EDDIE. NEED TO GET THE WATER OUT.

NO! DON'T MAKE ME PU--

AW, MAN, THIS IS GROSS ANYWAY.

HURRGH!



WHAT THE---?





YOU'RE BIG...BUT WE'VE FOUGHT BIGGER.

WHOA, HEY. LET'S NOT FIGHT!

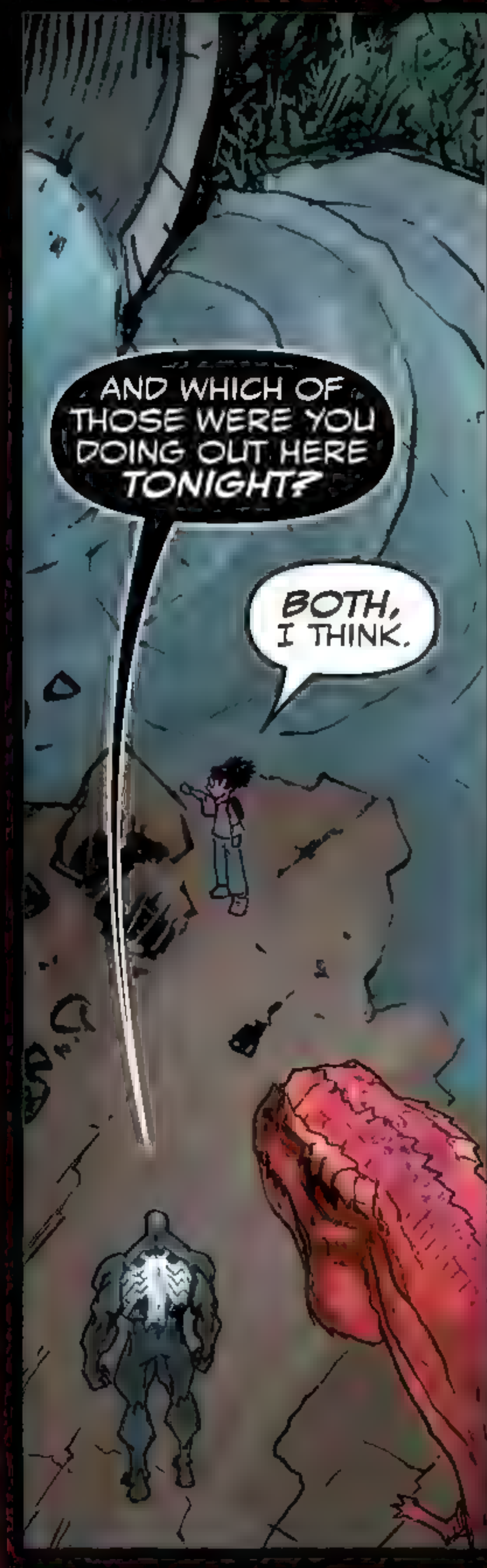
UNLESS YOU'RE A **BAD** GUY. THEN WE'LL **STOMP** YOU.

"WE"?

YEAH. WE'RE **MOON** GIRL AND **DEVIL** DINOSAUR.

DOING **SCIENCE** AND **CRUSHING** **BAD** GUYS.





AND WHICH OF THOSE WERE YOU DOING OUT HERE TONIGHT?

BOTH, I THINK.



DEVIL DINOSAUR CAUGHT SOME KIND OF SCENT, SO I FOLLOWED HIM HERE, LOOKING FOR WHATEVER MADE HIM SO UNEASY.

CREATURES IN THE SEWER...?



I'M TAKING CARE OF IT.

PFFFT. LOOKS MORE LIKE THEY'RE TAKING CARE OF YOU.



BEST TO GO BACK TO YOUR STUDIES, GIRL. AND KEEP A BETTER LEASH ON YOUR DINOSAUR. THERE ARE NO MORE MONSTERS HERE.



LATER...

THINGS IN THE SEWERS ARE WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT, LIZ.

HOW MUCH OF STEGRON'S FORMULA DID YOU REPRODUCE?

ALCHEMAX

I DON'T HAVE THAT INFORMATION. WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

BECAUSE HE'S LIVING IN THE ABANDONED TUNNELS UNDER THE HUDSON RIVER AND HE'S GOT A WHOLE \$%&^# CIVILIZATION DOWN THERE.

HE'S BEEN SUBJECTING DOGS AND FISH AND HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TO THAT FORMULA. EVEN THE HOMELESS THAT HAD BEEN LIVING IN THOSE TUNNELS. HE'S TREATING IT LIKE A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY.

THIS... IS NOT WHAT I NEEDED TODAY.

HEY, I GET IT. IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU FIND OUT YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING A CULT OF DINOSAUR MEN.

THIS MAY BE TOO BIG FOR US TO HANDLE, AFTER ALL.

MAYBE NOT. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN HARD AT WORK.

MY STAFF HAS BEEN RESEARCHING THE SAMPLE OF YOUR SYMBIOTE YOU LEFT US...

"...AND THEY SEEM TO HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS."

MR. BROCK, OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHYSIOLOGY OF YOUR... "PASSENGER" IS IMPERFECT. BUT IT SEEMS YOUR INSTINCTS ARE CORRECT. THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG.

THE ALIEN IS IN A SLOWLY ADVANCING PROCESS OF TOXIC SHOCK. IT'S GRADUALLY LOSING PHYSICAL COMPOSITION--SEEPING OUT OF YOUR PORES, LIKELY MORESO WHILE YOU **SLEEP**--IT'S PROBABLE THAT IT'S LOSING **MENTAL** FACULTIES AS WELL.

WH...WHAT DID THIS TO US?

NO! CAN'T BE TRUE, EDDIE! CAN'T BE TRUE!

THAT'S THE MOST **REMARKABLE** PART. IT SEEMS YOUR **OWN BODY** IS DOING THIS.

WE FOUND TRACE ELEMENTS OF EXOTIC COMPOUNDS IN YOUR BLOODSTREAM THAT BEAR STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO THE COCKTAILS DEVELOPED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SUPPRESS SYMBIOTE EXPRESSION.

FBI DID THIS TO US, EDDIE.

GAVE YOU DRUGS WHILE WE WERE BONDED WITH **OTHERS**.

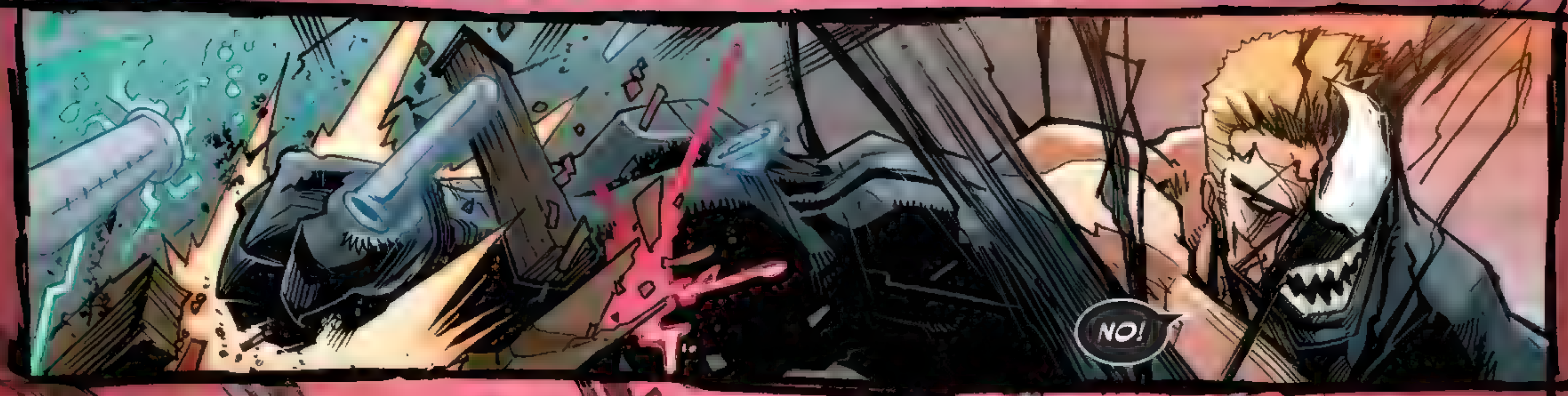
KNOW ABOUT **TOXIN**, EDDIE.

OUR THEORY IS THAT YOU WERE INOCULATED WITH THESE CHEMICALS SO OFTEN WHEN YOU WORKED FOR THE FBI THAT YOUR BODY'S METABOLISM WAS FUNDAMENTALLY **ALTERED** TO BE INHOSPITABLE TO THESE LIFE-FORMS.

IT REALLY IS AN **INCREDIBLE** EPIGENETIC DEVELOPMENT, AND--

I'M...AH... NOT GREAT WITH READING FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.

THIS... IS PROBABLY UPSETTING.



I'M LISTENING.



STEVEN WAS ABLE TO SYNTHESIZE **THIS**. WE THINK IT'S THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A **CURE**.

IT SHOULD **BALANCE OUT** YOUR METABOLISM, STOP IT FROM ATTACKING THE SYMBIOTE AND ALLOW YOUR BODY TO **HEAL**.

THAT, OR IT'LL MELT YOUR INSIDES.



YOU MADE THIS... FOR US?



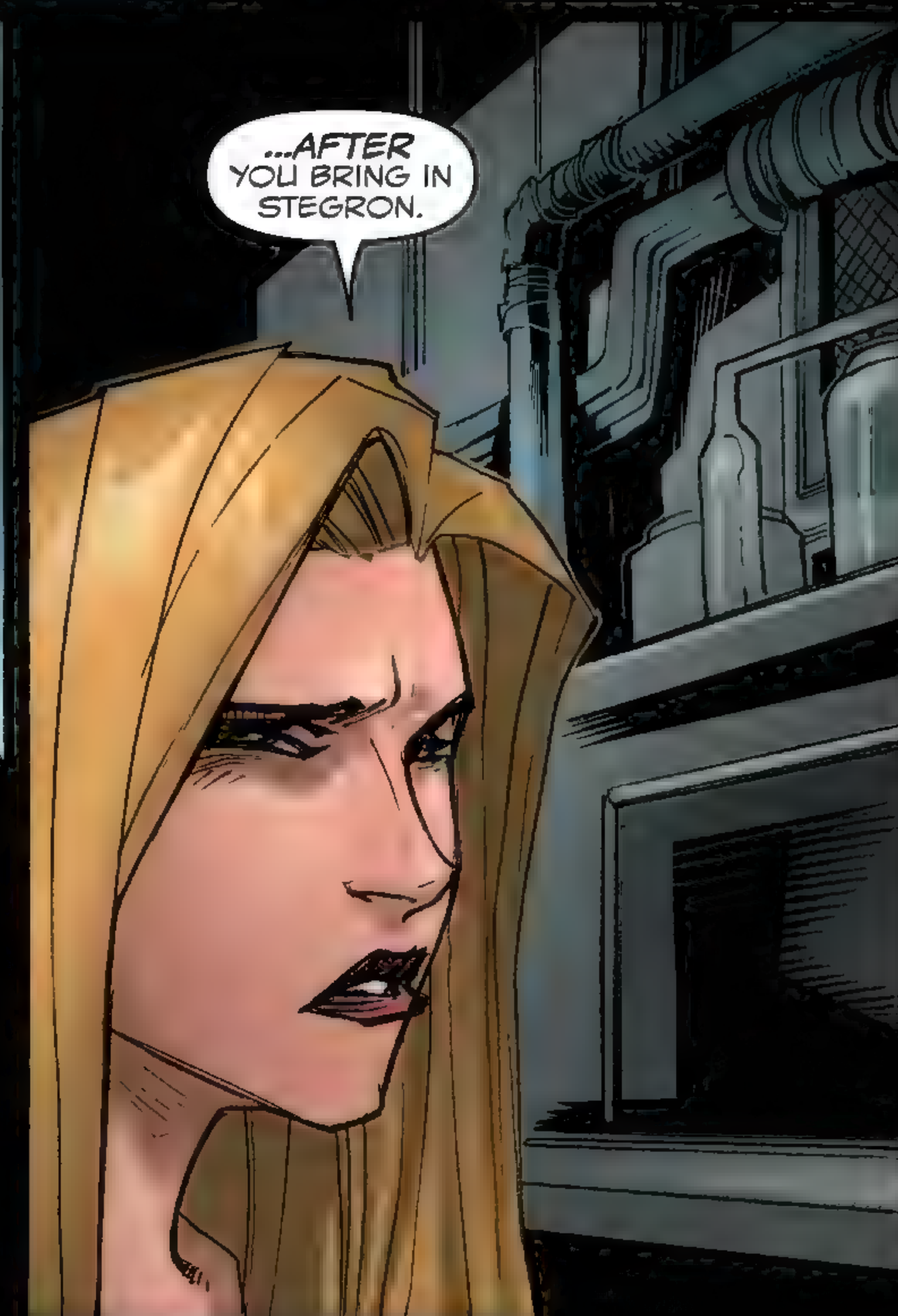
IT SOMEHOW SEEMED IN EVERYONE'S **BEST INTEREST** THAT YOU NOT TURN INTO A DEGENERATING, OUT-OF-CONTROL **PSYCHOTIC**.




TREATMENT ISN'T **PERMANENT**. YOU'LL HAVE TO REAPPLY EVERY 36 TO 48 HOURS.

YOU'LL GIVE ME A SUPPLY TO **TAKE HOME**?

WE WILL...



...AFTER YOU BRING IN **STEGRON**.



YOU WOULD
HOLD A LIFE-
SAVING MEDICINE
HOSTAGE
FROM US?

HOW ABOUT
"NOT GOING TO
WAR WITH AN ARMY
OF DINOSAUR
MONSTERS."

PLEASE.
"ARMY." STEGRON
HAS SOME KIND OF
PSIONIC CONTROL
OVER CERTAIN STRUCTURES
OF SAURIAN
BRAINS.

ONCE YOU
NEUTRALIZE HIM,
WHATEVER "LOYALTY"
THEY SHOW HIM
WILL VANISH.

DON'T BE
THAT WAY. WE HAVE AN
ARRANGEMENT.

BESIDES,
I ASSUME YOU
WANT TO CONFIRM
THAT IT WORKS BEFORE
I SYNTHESIZE **MORE.**
WHAT ELSE ARE YOU
DOING UNTIL
THEN?

HE CAN
CONTROL THE MINDS OF
DINOSAURS?

DON'T ACT
LIKE THAT'S THE
DUMBEST THING YOU'VE
EVER HEARD. YOU'RE IN A
CREEPY RELATIONSHIP
WITH AN **ALIEN** THAT
LIVES IN YOUR
STOMACH.

SHE'S RIGHT, EDDIE.
TAKE MEDICINE,
SAVE OUR LIFE.

FIGHT STEGRON,
SAVE INNOCENTS.

FINE.
BUT I'M GOING
ARMED THIS
TIME.

LATER...

MY
BRIDES, COME AND
WITNESS!

YOU SEE
THIS FILTHY, REEKING
CREATURE? THE FUR BRISTLING
FROM ITS TENDER FLESH?
THE AWFUL STINK OF ITS
HOT BLOOD?

WE OFFER
HIM THE BLESSING
OF THE WATER OF LIFE
THAT HE MIGHT BE
CHANGED...

HEAR THEM!
THE BIRTH CRIES
OF A CHILD FOR A NEW
AND GLORIOUS
AGE!

MEERROOOWWW!

HE SURE
DOES LIKE TO
TALK A LOT.

YOU
SHOULDN'T BE
HERE.

GAH!

WHY NOT?
BECAUSE YOU
LIED TO ME ABOUT
WHAT WAS DOWN
HERE?

I KNOW HOW
TO RECOGNIZE AN
ICHTHYOSAUR WHEN I SEE
IT. THERE'S OTHER DINOSAURS
DOWN HERE! THAT'S THE
SCENT DEVIL DINOSAUR
WAS FOLLOWING.



YOU
SHOULDN'T BE
HERE BECAUSE IT'S
DANGEROUS.

WHERE *IS*
YOUR DINOSAUR,
BY THE WAY?

OH, HE JUST
WENT AHEAD TO
SCOUT. HE'LL BE
HERE IN **JUST A
MINUTE**.

IT SEEMS
WE'VE BEEN
DELIVERED ANOTHER
BROTHER FOR THE
COMING WAR.

HOW
LOYAL IS
HE TO
YOU?

WE'VE SAVED
EACH OTHER'S LIVES,
LIKE, A **DOZEN TIMES**.
WE BASICALLY SHARE
A **BRAIN**. WHY?



RRRRR!

HAHA
HA!

BECAUSE
IT LOOKS LIKE
DEVIL'S SHARING
IT WITH SOMEONE
ELSE NOW.

UHHH...

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:



ON SALE IN AUGUST!

